JUMP START!

A TASTE OF WHAT'S NEW IN JAPAN

CROSS ACCOUNT

BY TSUNEHIRO DATE

Chapter 2: Fake x Real

キーン コーン…
DIING DOONG…
I STAYED UP TOO LATE!!
Now I'm late to school!!
Tee hee hee
たたたた

HOLD ON, GIRLS!!
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT IF IT'S MR HARMLESS, RIGHT?!
What—!
Yup, yup!
OH WELL. IT'S ONLY MR. HARMLESS.
Phew!

BUT HIS CLASSMATES CALL HIM "MR. HARMLESS".
HIS NAME IS DAICHI TAMANASHI.
AM I SOME KIND OF INSECT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD?!
GLOOM

FLIP
HOW-EVER!!

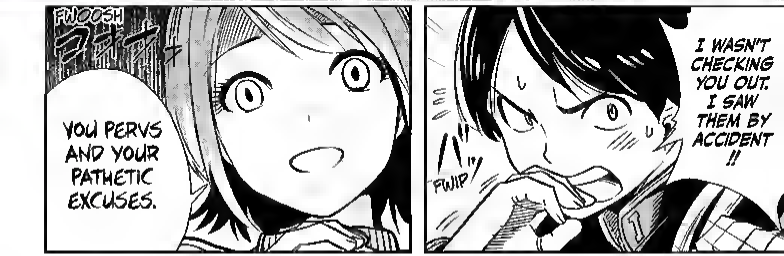
THESE CLASS-MATES HAVE NO IDEA...
Log
Log in!!

Fake Smile
DUE TO HIS PLAIN APPEARANCE AND BECAUSE HE CONSTANTLY TRIES TO REMAIN INCON-SPICUOUS SO THAT NO ONE WILL HATE HIM...
...GIRLS DON'T SEE HIM AS A BOY AND BOYS DON'T RECOGNIZE HIS EXISTENCE.
Avoiding Eye Contact

Mr. Harmful
Followers
3,583
HIS BITTER, POISONOUS AND HARSH DIARY, WITH ITS OPENLY OTAKU PERSONALITY, HAS GONE VIRAL.
NOW, FOR SOME REASON, HE'S POPULAR WITH OVER 3,000 FOLLOWERS!!
...THAT THIS BOY, CONTRARY TO HOW HE APPEARS ON THE SURFACE...
mr.harmful @yu
IT'S EARLY IN THE MORNING, BUT LET ME SAY ONE THING!!
Mark my words, you stupid girls who treat me like a bug!
Every single man in the world is essentially a predator in his head!!
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
Mr. Harmful
...HAS ANOTHER IDENTITY (ACCOUNT) ALTOGETHER!
MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE GREAT VIEW... ♡
SSST
BUT STILL...

BFFT ?!
Again?!
AH!
TAKA-MINE ?!
Eh?!
THAT'S MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, MAO TAKAMINE.
Hm...
FWIP
BUT WHATEVER. SHE'S LIKE THE REST OF THEM...

WAIT, WHAT?! SHE'S ACTING DIFFERENT THAN USUAL!
RUMBLE
WHY THE HECK ARE YOU CHECKING OUT MY PANTIES, YOU DISGUSTING PERV...?!


FWOOSH
YOU PERVS AND YOUR PATHETIC EXCUSES.
I WASN'T CHECKING YOU OUT. I SAW THEM BY ACCIDENT !!
FWIP

THIS IS NOT A LUCKY ACCIDENT AT ALL. THIS IS A "DEATHLY ACCIDENT"!!
I'M GETTING PUNISHED FOR SEEING SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO.
HMPH...!
WHAT KIND OF AN IMAGE DO YOU HAVE OF ME?!
Flashback
WHY'RE YOU ACTING ALL INNOCENT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO MAKES A SCENE OUT OF SOMEONE SEEING YOUR PANTIES ARE YOU?!
BAM

DAMMIT ...
WHAT'S SHE SO PISSED OFF ABOUT ...?!
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
キィッ
KEE

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOUR LIFE IS SOMETHING THOSE BOYS AND GIRLS OUT THERE WOULD DIE FOR.
YOU ARE WALKING IN THE SPOTLIGHT.
IT'S NOTHING, MOM...
YOU...
...ARE A SUCCESSFUL PERSON WHOSE DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE.
VROOM
YEAH...

SHE'S REALLY HOT NOW!
STUDIO
IT'S NOT ONLY THE PUBLISHING WORLD.
AND WITH MAGAZINES... I HEARD THAT JUST HER APPEARING ON THE COVERS...
...CAN INCREASE SALES BY THOUSANDS.
FOR REAL?!
THE FIRST PRINTING OF HER FIRST PHOTO BOOK SOLD 50,000 COPIES!
Studio A
In Session
...BECOMING A PHENOMENON REIGNING IN THE NEW ERA.
NANOKA SATSUKI IS...

YOU DID A WONDER-FUL JOB AGAIN, NANOKA!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
ALL RIGHT, THAT WAS GOOD!!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN THAT IT WENT BY SO FAST.
Hee hee!
IT'S THANKS TO ALL OF YOU CHEERING ME ON.
THIS IS THE GIRL I WANT TO MARRY!
NANOKA SATSUKI IS THE TOP ACTRESS DOMINATING THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY
Hee
Hee hee
STARE
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU AGAIN ♡
BA-DUMP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP

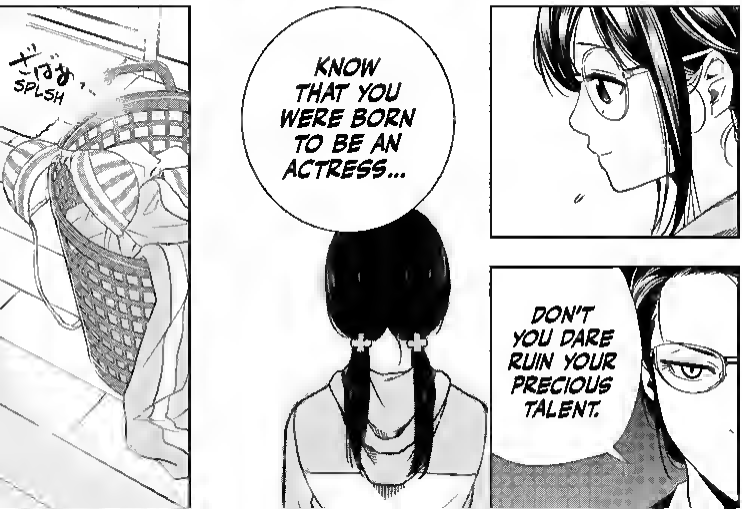
BECAUSE OF HER CLEAN AND FLOWERY IMAGE..
...SHE GAINED A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND GENDERS.
...MAKING HER THE NUMBER ONE MOST POPULAR FEMALE STAR.
NOWADAYS, SHE RECEIVES OFFERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION.
SHE IS A BOX-OFFICE SUPERSTAR.
HOW-EVER !!
ガチャッ KEER-CHAK
...
IF SOME-THING LIKE THIS GETS OUT...
...OUR AGENCY WILL BE RUINED!!

*The same person from the previous page
しゅぴ
DADA
THAT THE PURE AND INNOCENT ACTRESS, NANOKA SATSUKI...
...IS MORE LIKE THE QUEEN OF THE TRASH HEAP!!
DA DA DA
AH, MOM! YOU'RE BACK.
Oh no!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE...?
I TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES TO STOP SNACKING!
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, PLEASE!!
I HAD TWO BAGS OF POTATO CHIPS, WHICH IS 1,200 CALORIES!!
I HAD 500 MILLILITERS OF COKE, AND THAT'S 50 CALORIES!!

GIVE ME FOUR HOURS AT THE GYM AND I'LL GET BACK IN SHAPE!!
FWIP
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN FIT THAT INTO YOUR SCHEDULE?!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON A STRICT DIET FOR A WHILE..
WAAH...
But it was so good...
ALSO, WHAT IS THAT PACKAGE OVER THERE...?
AH! ZENON-KUN?! IT'S ALREADY HERE?!
TA DAAA
IT'S A LIFE-SIZE FIGURE OF ZENON-KUN FROM THE POPULAR VIDEO GAME GESUDOLA 5.
HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ON THIS THING?
IT WAS 1,920,000 YEN!!
WAH?! 1,920,000 YEN?!
...
RUSTLE
ZENON-KUN?

THAT IS NOT THE POINT!
FLIP!
DON'T WORRY!! WE STILL HAVE 75,820,000 YEN IN SAVINGS!!

...AS A LEADING ACTRESS, YOU NEED TO BE MORE AWARE OF YOUR SITUATION.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH YOUR HOBBIES AND DOWNTIME, BUT...


ざばぁ
SPLSH
KNOW THAT YOU WERE BORN TO BE AN ACTRESS...
DON'T YOU DARE RUIN YOUR PRECIOUS TALENT.

5:30...
PLUNK
PHEW
...

THE PERSON KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS THE ACTRESS NANOKA SATSUKI...

EVEN SO, RESPONDING TO MY MOTHER'S EXPECTATIONS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD.

...OF MY TRUE SELF, WHO IS GLOOMY, LAZY AND A SUPER OTAKU.
IS THE COM-PLETE OPPOSITE ...

THAT WAS WHAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT ...
MR. HARMFUL?
What a weird name...
mr.harmful @yuugaikun
3,051 Followers 248 Following
MR. HARM-FUL... I MIGHT AS WELL FOLLOW HIM...!!
STARE
AMAZING
SHE'S SO FOCUSED.
HUH, THIS PERSON...
HE KNOWS MANGA AND VIDEO GAMES BETTER THAN I DO.
mr harmful @yuugaikun
Play time: 250 hours
Beat all the new rounds! I love Gesuhora so much! Now I wonder should play it again...
3 Days

I'M HOME.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT OF HIM AS JUST ANOTHER OTAKU.
MY IMPRESSION WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.
I'M SO TIRED.
PSSHH
HOW LONG WILL THIS GO ON?
I REALLY CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE...
SLUGGISH
...AND WHEN I BECOME A GRANNY...
...WHEN I HIT MIDDLE AGE...
...HOW LONG AM I GOING TO CONTINUE HIDING MY TRUE SELF?
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS PURE AND INNOCENT THING. IT'S NOT GONNA WORK...

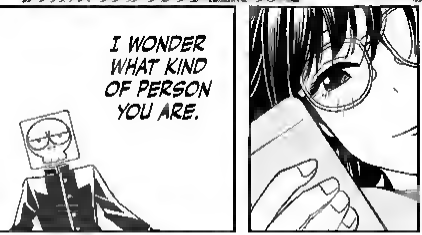
FWIP
NO, I SHOULD STOP THINKING LIKE THAT!!
OH YEAH, MAYBE HE MADE SOME UPDATES!
Weather
Clock
Maps
Video
App Store
Books
LINE
I WANTED TO FOCUS ON WHAT I LIKED TO DO AND, THAT WAS IT.
IT WAS JUST SO I COULD GET AWAY FROM REALITY THAT DAY, LIKE USUAL.
HOWEVER, WHAT HE SAID THAT DAY...
ALONE, FOREVER.

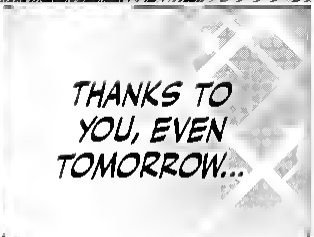
BDMP
mr.harmful@yuugaikun
In the end…
I was a phony…
Yet again…
5 Minutes Ago
…REFLECTED MY TRUE FEELINGS.
DOES HE FEEL ISOLATED TOO?
…THAT THIS PERSON IS SUFFERING FROM THE SAME PROBLEMS I'M HAVING?
DOES THIS MEAN…
PERHAPS HE SHARES THE SAME FEELINGS AS ME?
THIS PAIN OF NOT BEING WHO YOU REALLY ARE…

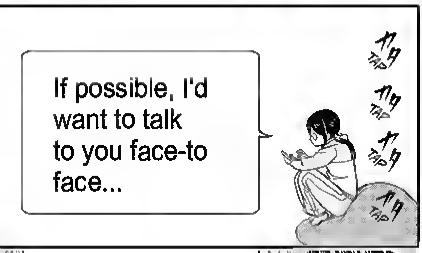
BUT STILL, ME AS AN ACTRESS IS A FAKE IDENTITY THAT I HAD TO WORK HARD TO CREATE.
OF COURSE, I NEVER WANT TO LET MY MOTHER DOWN.
...WITH WHOM I COULD BE MY TRUE SELF.
mr.harmful@yuugakun
Hi, my name is Poop Head. Nice to meet you
1 Month Ago
IN TRUTH, I ONLY WANTED A FRIEND...
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LIE TO YOU...
BE BEEP
I'M ALSO AN ACTRESS.
IN REALITY, I AM A GIRL.
FORGIVE ME...MR. HARMFUL ...

Yo, Poop Head!! You still awake?!
...SO THAT I COULD BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
IT'S ONLY WHEN I'M TALKING WITH YOU...
...THAT I DON'T FEEL ALONE.
SO ANNOYING WHEN IT'S THIS LATE...
FLAP
FLAP
Come on. You're still awake anyway.

I CAN BECOME WHO I REALLY AM.


I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE.


THANKS TO YOU, EVEN TOMORROW...


If possible, I'd want to talk to you face-to face...
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

...I CAN GO BACK TO BEING AN ACTRESS.

...and not just on social media...

I DO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN NEVER HAPPEN.
SLIDE
SEEING HIM IN REAL LIFE...
SWISH
SWISH
TAP TAP TAP
...
SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING MORE.
RIGHT? I...
Apparently, they're having a book-release handshake event.
I remember that was on the schedule...
I-I SEE...
I got Nanoka's photo book and
DOKI
THUMP
OH REALLY ...
BEEP
Actually, I got too excited to sleep last night.
UM ...

So, I entered the lottery, and guess what—I got it!
Nanoka Satsuki
I got a ticket to shake hands with Nanoka!!
HUH ...?!
TO BE CONTINUED...